

Abstract

The present invention relates to nucleic acids which encode a cell wall protein necessary for the hyphae development of *Candida*, fragments of the nucleic acids, vectors containing the nucleic acids or nucleic acid fragments, host cells containing the vectors, the cell wall proteins encoded by the nucleic acids, antibodies directed against the proteins, methods for the production of the cell wall proteins, methods for the characterization and/or for the detection of the hyphae stage of *Candida*, methods for the detection of a *Candida* infection, methods for identifying substances having therapeutic action against diseases caused by *Candida*, diagnostic and pharmaceutical compositions which contain the nucleic acids, nucleic acid fragments, vectors, host cells, proteins and/or antibodies against the cell wall protein, kits for the in vitro identification of the cell wall proteins, and the use of the nucleic acids, vectors, proteins or antibodies for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases caused by *Candida* or for the production of diagnostic or pharmaceutical compositions.